

## Harry C. Smith

Cleveland, Ohio

EDITOR of the *Cleveland Gazette*. A man of positive character, well known and influential in political circles, and a leader among the men of his race.

He was born in Clarksburg, Va., January 28, 1863, just twenty-eight days after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.



Harry C. Smith

He has lived in Cleveland, Ohio, since he was two years of age. He is a product of the public schools of Cleveland.

He founded the first high school orchestra in Cleveland, and was the only Afro-American member of the orchestra. Later he became director of the Excelsior Cornet Company in Cleveland, and appeared in concerts throughout the United States. He is well known as a composer of music. His ballad "Bright Eyes" is his best-

known and most popular composition.

Mr. Smith has been for more than thirty years in the newspaper work, nearly twenty-seven as editor of the *Cleveland Gazette*, of which he has been sole proprietor for twenty-two years. He was elected three times to the legislature of Ohio, the last time by more than 10,000 plurality, the largest ever given an Afro-American candidate for such an office.

As a legislator he is best known because of the passage of the "Ohio Civil Rights Law," and the "Anti-Lynching Law," two measures that owe their success to his energy and influence. He won a place as an orator in 1896 when, as a leader of a delegation of five hundred Negroes, he visited Canton, the home of Governor McKinley, and presented the greetings of the Negroes to Mr. McKinley, and their best wishes for success.

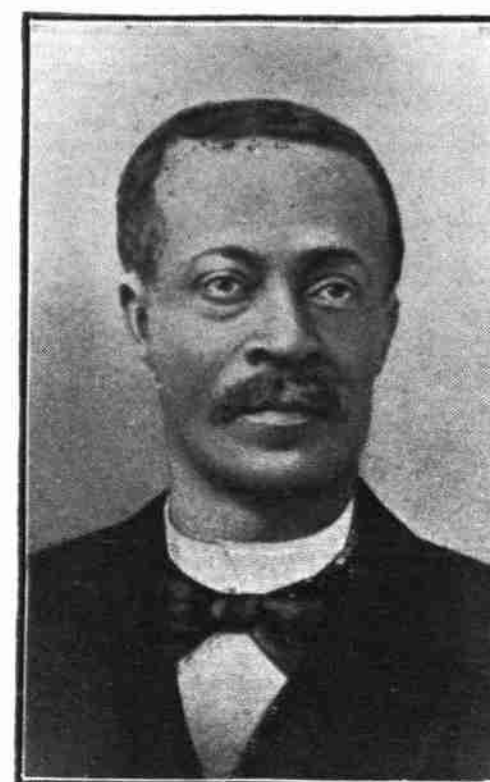
He was state oil inspector in Ohio for four years. Mr. Smith is the owner of considerable property in Cleveland.

President Scarborough, of Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, says: "The *Gazette* is one among the best to be edited by colored journalists in the United States. It is vigorous in tone, fearless in its advocacy of equal rights of all men without distinction, an uncompromising enemy of prejudice in all its forms, and has principle, rather than expediency, for its basis."

## Matthew M. Lewey

Pensacola, Fla.

MR. LEWEY is editor of the *Florida Sentinel*, a member of the executive committee of the National Negro Business League since its organization in 1900, a member of the executive committee of the National Negro Press Association, and president of the Florida State Negro Business League.



M. M. Lewey

He was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1848, of free parents. As there was no public school in Baltimore for Negro children before the Civil War, young Lewey learned something of the common branches of study through private teaching, which at best was very imperfect. At the age of twelve he began to learn the calker's trade with his father. Four years later he went to New York to live with his grandfather, a minister of the African

Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

In 1863 he went to Massachusetts and enlisted in the Fifty-fifth Volunteer Regiment, to serve during the war. He was made corporal and color bearer of Company D. He was one of the first volunteers to enter Fort Wagner after its fall in the summer of 1863. At the battle of Honeyhill, South Carolina, November, 1864, while bearing the colors of his regiment, he was severely wounded and permanently disabled. After his release from the hospital he was honorably discharged in 1865.

He attended school at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, graduating from the college department in 1872, and then spent a year in the Law School of Howard University. He then went to Florida, serving for several years as teacher at Newmansville, and was elected mayor of the town by both political parties. In 1881 he removed to Gainesville, practiced law, published the *Florida Sentinel* seven years, and was elected to the legislature. He was instrumental in establishing the State Agricultural and Mechanical College at Tallahassee, in 1877. Later he moved to Pensacola where he has a prosperous newspaper plant and a finely equipped "job office." He numbers among his customers many white firms, and does practically all of the "Negro job work" in Pensacola. His property is valued at \$12,000.